

type of item. For example, as illustrated herein, the invention may be used with a bid/offer or buy/sell trading system for trading of financial instruments, such as bonds. Likewise, as another example, the
5 invention may be used with a matching system, wherein bids and offers are submitted by various traders and matched, for the trading of other items, such as materials and supplies for manufacturing.

Brief Description of the Invention

10 The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to like parts
15 throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is an illustration of a market cell that may be generated in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

20 FIGS. 2 and 3 are illustrations of dialog windows that may be generated in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

FIGS. 4 and 5 are illustrations of system settings windows that may be generated in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

25 FIG. 6 is an illustration of a display settings window that may be generated in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

30 FIG. 7 is a flow diagram of a main process that may be used to perform the functions illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a settings process that may be used to configure settings illustrated in FIGS. 1-6 in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

5 FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a two-sided market process that may be used to generate prices for instantly quoting a two-sided market in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

10 FIG. 10 is an illustration of an entry window that may be used to select items to be traded using the dialog window of FIGS. 2 and 3 in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention;

15 FIG. 11 is a flow diagram of an entry window process that may be used to interface the entry window of FIG. 10 with the dialog window of FIGS. 2 and 3 in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention; and

20 FIG. 12 is a block diagram of a system that may be used to implement the processes and functions illustrated in FIGS. 1-11 in accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The present invention relates to systems and methods for instantly quoting a two-sided market.

25 Currently, if a trader wishes to enter a bid and an offer order, he must do so independently. This is an arduous task, especially in a fast moving market. In accordance with the present invention, it is possible to allow a trader to enter a two-sided market
30 order instantly. Systems and methods provide configurable trading interfaces to automate the submission of a two-sided market order.

The technique of the present invention for instantly submitting a two-sided market order uses a pre-set spread amount, configured by the trader, and an entered value to generate a bid or offer value, depending on which value is entered. For example, if a trader enters a bid price, the trader may indicate to submit a bid and offer order for a particular item, where the offer price may be automatically generated from the bid price and the pre-set spread amount. If a trader enters an offer price, the trader may indicate to submit a bid and offer order for a particular item, where the bid price may be automatically generated from the offer price and the pre-set spread amount. Accordingly, this invention prevents the need for traders to enter independent bid and offer orders for a particular item.

Turning to FIGS. 1-6, examples of screen displays that may be presented in certain embodiments of the present invention are illustrated. FIG. 1 shows a market cell 100 that may be used to display one or more bid and/or one or more offer 101 for an item to be traded. As illustrated, bid and offer 101 indicates a price 102 which a buyer is willing to pay for a selected item 103 at a given size 106 (i.e., a number of the item) and a price 104 which a seller is willing to accept for selected item 103 at a given size 108.

Each component of a market shown in market cell 100 may be marked with a color, or in any other suitable manner, to indicate features of that component. For example, as shown in FIG. 1, the entire area of fields 102, 103, 104, 106, and 108 may be colored, or only the symbols in those fields may be colored, to assign a meaning to each field. As a